

males, Kalatop-2800 m, 30 June — 2 July, 1986; 1 female, Shoja-3000 m, 10 May, 1992. WEST BENGAL: 2 females, Pashok-2000 m, 22 May, 1987; 1 male, Darjeeling-2280 m, 7 May, 1993; 4 females, 3 males, Darjeeling-2280 m, 11 September, 1993. SIKKIM: 1 female, Gangtok-1700 m, 15 May, 1986; 1 male, Gangtok-1700 m, 14 May, 1993; 1 female, 3 males, Namchi-1700 m, 16 May, 1993. ARUNACHAL PRADESH: 14 females, Bomdila-2550 m, 2 May, 1989; 9 females, 27 males, Bomdila-2550 m, 31 May-2 June, 1989; 4 males, Bomdila-2550 m, 25 June, 1993; 1 female, Dirang-1500 m, 29 May, 1993. MEGHALAYA: 3 females, Smit-1500 m, 17 May, 1989; 5 males, Elephanta Falls-1500 m, 19 May, 1989; 5 males, Elephanta Falls-1500 m, 19 May, 1989; 2 females, Happy Valley-1500 m, 20 May, 1989. NAGALAND: 2 females, Zunheboto-1874 m, 14 May, 1993; 1 female, Satakha-1500 m, 15 May, 1993.

**Population variation:** There is considerable variation in the black lateral flecks on abdomen in the females. Sometimes the flecks are small just on the border leaving a yellow abdomen in between but in some cases where flecks are quite prominent and large, the yellow colour of abdomen is left only

in the form of a line in the centre. Usually the number of these flecks is 6, i.e. on terga 2-7. But sometimes 5 on 2-6, sometimes, 4 on 2-5 or 3-6. In case of males the apical abdominal tergites may be fulvous to almost black or entirely pale.

**Distribution:** INDIA: Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland.

**Diagnostic characters:** The specimens studied fall within Malaise's 1963 key for genera of the world and Malaise's 1957 key to the species of this genus. They also compare well with the available description by Konow (1898). *I. tricoloricornis* (Konow) is distinct from all other species on the basis of some remarkable characters such as the characteristic shape of median fovea; tricoloured antenna; hyaline wings; black marking on mesonotal middle lobe; metabasitarsus longer than following joints combined and postocellar area broader than long as 3:2, etc.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## A NEW SPECIES OF *MEDINILLA* GAUD. (MELASTOMATACEAE) FROM ARUNACHAL PRADESH, INDIA<sup>1</sup>

G. D. PAL<sup>2</sup>

(With a text-figure)

During plant exploration in the district of Lower Subansiri, Arunachal Pradesh, an interesting species of the genus *Medinilla* Gaud. was collected. A critical

study based on the regional herbarium specimens of allied species and literature on species of *Medinilla* Gaud. has proved it to be quite distinct from species so far known. It is described here.

***Medinilla arunachalica* sp. nov.**

*M. maingayi* C.B. Clarke affinis, sed differt

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<sup>2</sup>Arunachal Pradesh Circle, Botanical Survey of India, Itanagar-791 111.

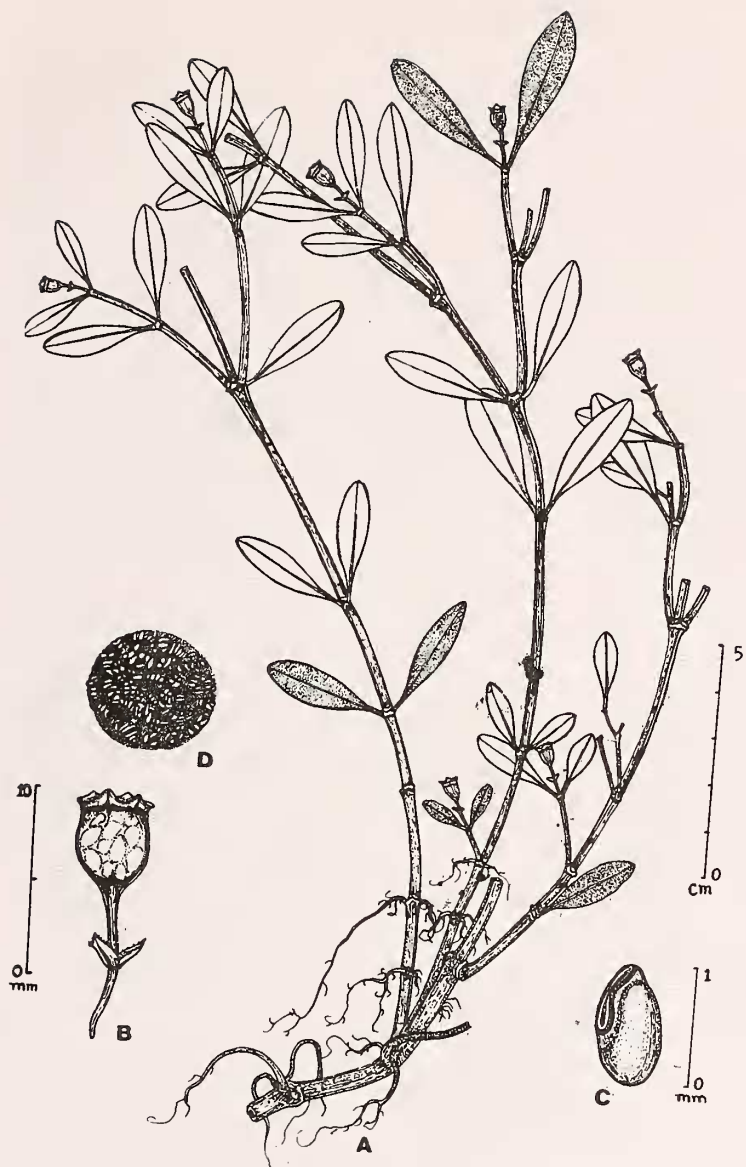


Fig. 1. A-D: *Medinilla arunachalica* sp. nov.

A: Habit; B: Capsule; C: Seed; D: Part of leaf (magnified).

foliis elliptico-lanceolatis, minus quam 1 cm latis, nervis lateralibus obscuris; petiolis 2-3 mm longis, ramis striatis sparsim verrucosis.

*Typus*: Old Ziro, Lower Subansiri District, Arunachal Pradesh, 1750 m, 18.9.1983, G.D. Pal 1232 A (Holotypus — CAL); *Isotypus*: *Ibid.* G.D. Pal 1232 B (ARUN).

***Medinilla arunachalica* sp. nov.**

(Fig. 1, A-D)

Allied to *Medinilla maingayi* C.B. Clarke but can

be distinguished by the leaves being elliptic-lanceolate, less than 1 cm broad; lateral nerves obscure; petioles 2-5 mm long; branches striate, sparsely verrucose.

Epiphytic scandent shrubs, 30-40 cm tall, rooting at lower nodes. *Stems* striate, sparsely verrucose, reddish brown, branchlets angular, glabrous. *Leaves* elliptic to elliptic-lanceolate, 1.2-3.2 x 0.6-0.9 cm, cuneate at base, obtuse, reflexed at margin, turn dark-brown when dry; lateral nerves obscure; midnerves strong; petioles 2-3 mm long. Inflorescence axillary, 1-2-flowered cymes; peduncles 2-4 mm long, terete, glabrous; bracts ovate to suborbicular, 1.75-2.0 x 1.25-1.5 mm, acute or obtuse, ciliolate at margin; pedicels 4.0-4.5 mm long, terete to obscurely angled. *Flowers* tetramerous; calyx 4-toothed; teeth broadly triangular, 1.0-1.5 mm long, apex obtuse, midrib more or less prominent; ovary inferior. *Fruits* berry, oval to subglobose, 6-7 mm long, 4.5-6.6 mm broad at apex, crowned with the persistent calyx-teeth. *Seeds* oblong-ellipsoid, c. 1 mm long; raphe extending below the middle.

**Habitat**: In moist, broad leaved sub-temperate forest on *Michelia* tree where it grows in hollows and rotting wood left by fallen branches, associated with *Medinilla himalayana* Hook. f. & Triana and *Medinilla erythrophylla* Lindl.

**Fruiting**: September.

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